

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 38 are currently pending in the application, claims 23 through 38 being newly added in this amendment.

This amendment is in response to the Office Action of July 9, 2004.

Preliminary Amendment

Applicants note the filing of a Preliminary Amendment on April 8, 2004, which filing was not acknowledged in the outstanding Office Action. Should the Preliminary Amendment have failed to have been entered in the Office file, Applicants will provide a true copy to the Examiner.

Double Patenting Rejection Based on U.S. Patent 6,439,115

Claims 1 through 22 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 50 through 71 of U.S. Patent 6,439,115. In order to avoid further expenses and time delay, Applicants elect to expedite the prosecution of the present application by filing a terminal disclaimer to obviate the double patenting rejections in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.321 (b) and (c). Applicants' filing of the terminal disclaimer should not be construed as acquiescence of the Examiner's double patenting or obviousness-type double patenting rejection. Attached is the terminal disclaimer and accompanying fee.

Applicants submit that claims 1 through 38 are clearly allowable.

Applicants request the allowance of claims 1 through 38 and the case passed for issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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